

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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----- 108754

R 041450 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3459

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV PINT RH UK

SUBJ: SMITH TAKES HARSH LINE TOWARD UK

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN UNUSUALLY HARSH TERMS RHODESIA'S IAN SMITH TOOK BRITISH
FONSEC DOUGLAS- HOME TO TASK FOR LATTER'S RECENT STATEMENT
THAT CHAOTIC CONDITIONS WOULD DEVELOP IN EVENT RHODESIA DID NOT
ARRIVE AT SETTLEMENT. ADDRESSING RHODESIAN ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS
OF COMMERCE (ACCOR) MAY 3 SMITH SAID, AS REPORTED IN PRESS,
THAT HE " WAS AMAZED THAT SOMEBODY WHO WAS SO REMOTE FROM THE
PROBLEM, 6,000 MILES AWAY, SHOULD CHOOSE TO SPEAK IN SUCH
EXTRAVAGANT LANGUAGE ABOUT A PROBLEM OF WHICH HE KNOWS SO
LITTLE."

2. SMITH CONTINUED THAT SIR ALEC " WAS ILL- ADVISED, LET ME SAY
THAT IN ORDER TO BE KIND TO HIM. I CAN ONLY COME TO THE
CONCLUSION THAT HIS ADVISORS LISTEN TO A DAILY BROADCAST WE
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MONITOR FROM TANZANIA--- THEIR CLAIM IS THAT AT LEAST EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS AT LEAST 100 CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE TERRORISTS. SO THERE IS NO WONDER THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE GOT HOLD OF THE WRONG END OF THE STICK, AS FAR AS CONDITIONS IN RHODESIA ARE CONCERNED."

3. REPLYING TO RETIRING ACCOR PRESIDENT CALDER' S REMARK THAT COUNTRY' S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY WAS NEED TO IMPLEMENT 1971 UK- RHODESIAN AGREEMENT, SMITH CONTINUED THAT AGREEMENT CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNILATERALLY AND " IF FINAL OBSTACLE IS BRITISH REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE OBVIOUS, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE WHAT ANYONE WOULD DO TO COPE WITH SUCH AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION." RHODESIAN LEADER CLAIMED THERE WAS STRONG TREND OF THINKING THAT BRITAIN WOULD NOT JUDGE ISSUE ON MERITS OF CASE BUT ON WHETHER IT SUITED BRITISH POLITICAL BOOK, I. E., UK' S POSITION WITH TRADING PARTNERS IN REST OF WORLD.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. CANNOT JUDGE FROM HERE IF SMITH' S BITTER ATTACK RESULTS FROM FACTORS SUCH AS BRITISH ISISTENCE RHODESIAN REGIME REACH PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH BROAD SECTOR AFRICAN OPINION OR FROM RIGHT WING PRESSURE. CONCEIVABLY IT COULD BE TOUGH TALK FOR INTERNAL WHITE CONSUMPTION PRIOR TO MAKING CONCESSIONS TO ANC ALTHOUGH THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY FROM THE TONE OF SPEECH EXTRACTS REBROADCAST HERE. ON FACE OF IT, THEREFORE, LIKELIHOOD OF AGREED SETTELEMTN STILL SEEMS REMOTE. DECLASSIFY 12/31/73.

O' NEILL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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